

**MINUTES OF THE
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES (FICEMS)**

DATE AND TIME: December 7, 2000 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION: U.S. Department of Transportation Headquarters
Room 4236
400 Seventh Street S.W.
Washington, D.C.

**MEMBER AGENCY
REPRESENTATION:** **Federal Emergency Management Agency**
Mr. Hugh Wood
FICEMS Chairperson
United States Fire Administration (USFA)

Department of Agriculture
No Representative

Federal Communications Commission
No Representative

Department of Defense
No Representative

General Services Administration (GSA)
Mr. Mel Globerman

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Bob Waddell
Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C)

Department of Interior
No Representative

Department of Transportation
Jeff Michael
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Mr. William Hansbury

**OTHER FEDERAL
ATTENDEES:**

Mr. William Troup
United States Fire Administration

Mr. Jeff Dyar
United States Fire Administration

Mr. Terry Glunt
United States Fire Administration

Ms. Susan Hernandez
United States Fire Administration

Captain Art French, M.D.
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration/
United States Coast Guard

Captain Garry Criddle
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Susan McHenry
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Dave Bryson
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Dr. Joseph Heck, D.O.
Department of Defense
Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences

**OTHER ATTENDEES
PRIVATE SECTOR:**

Mr. Kurt Krumpnerman
American Ambulance Association (AAA)

Mr. Jon Moore
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)

Mr. Joseph Robison
National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)

Mr. Craig Sharman
National Volunteer Fire Council

Dr. Sandy Bogucki, M.D.
National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP)

Dr. Nadine Levick, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University

Mr. Pete Chambers
American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)

Mr. Ltim Grady
U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP)

Ms. Dara Nichols
Star Mountain, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by FICEMS Chairperson Mr. Wood.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Wood introduced himself as the new FICEMS Chairperson. He provided attendees information about his fire service and EMS background.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Chairperson requested approval of the FICEMS Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2000. The minutes were approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ambulance Design - Mel Globerman reported that he met with the ambulance manufacturers in Tampa and received input on the draft GSA Federal Ambulance Standard (KKK-A-1822E). He will provide copies of the reviewed draft of the standard to FICEMS members.

He briefed on a conversion problem involving vehicle manufacturers. Working on developing new wiring schematics to fix this problem. GSA is trying to finish the final draft of the proposed GSA Federal Ambulance Design standard and are scheduled to meet with the Ambulance Manufacturers Association for a final review. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for sometime in October in Florida.

Technology – Captain Criddle introduced Dr. French and Mr. Troup who were elected as the new co-chairs of this committee at the September 7 FICEMS meeting. The chair and committee thanked Captain Criddle for his outstanding service as Chair of this subcommittee.

Dr. French and Mr. Troup reported that they will meet to examine the future direction of this subcommittee, looking for a roadmap. This meeting will be in conjunction with a meeting of the USFA EMS Team.

Dr. French reported that there are three broad areas that this subcommittee would focus on: Biomedical, Training, and Data Collection Technology. Ms. McHenry added that the committee may also want to look at technology related to access to care. Captain Criddle suggested that looking at the past charter of this subcommittee may be beneficial and that he would provide a copy.

Dr. French stated that Automated External Defibrillation (AED) technology should be a separate topic not under the auspices of the technology subcommittee as it is such a large scale issue.

Mr. Krumpertman informed the attendees that the Health Insurance Portability and Protection Act (HIPPA) has a provision that impacts on EMS data collection and transfer in the area of patient confidentiality.

V. MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS:

NHTSA: Mr. Michael briefed on NHTSA activities (Attachment #1). He discussed the EMS Education Agenda for the Future and reported on other current research and educational activities that NHTSA is involved in. He mentioned that NHTSA is looking to conduct a meeting in mid-year 2001 on EMS Performance Management. He reported that NHTSA is finishing up a series of EMS and Public Health roundtables.

VA: Mr. Hansbury reported that the VA is reorganizing to allow for a more focused national level preparedness on behalf of the VA to better support local level medical systems. He mentioned that he will be retiring at the end of December.

DHHS/EMS-C: Mr. Waddell reported that the new EMSC Resource Kit is now available and provided copies to attendees. He also reported that EMSC is currently working on reviewing grants and working on pediatric data collection efforts. Mr. Waddell mentioned that they are working with Yale School of Medicine on developing pediatric disaster training courses.

GSA: Mr. Globerman reported on a meeting at the U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) with the main issue being degradation of medications carried on ambulances resulting from exposure to temperature extremes. He mentioned that both AAA and the New York City Fire Department EMS agreed to participate in this study.

While a lot is known about the temperature effects on these medications, we do not know the actual temperatures and the duration to which these medications are exposed when carried in ambulances.

The military is being considered to be involved in the study since they operate in the some of the most severe temperature conditions.

Mr. Kurt Krumpferman represented AAA at this meeting to provide additional information about this study (Attachment #2). He mentioned that USP needs to move quickly on this study due to the coming of winter so that cold temperature extremes could be tested. Mr. Krumpferman offered to serve as the informational point of contact for this study, to include gathering information regarding testing sites for the study.

FEMA/USFA: Mr. Dyar reported that USFA has reorganized and that EMS in USFA falls within the Response and Recovery Branch.

He also reported that USFA was involved with three national-level EMS conferences including the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) conference, IAFF's EMS in the Fire Service conference, and the International Association of Fire Chief's Fire-Rescue-Med conference.

Mr. Dyar reported on the new course All Hazards Risk Analysis for EMS that focuses on comprehensive injury prevention. He also discussed the expansion of the Incident Safety Officer (ISO)/Health and Safety Officer (HSO) course.

He discussed USFA's involvement with the Department of Transportation Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) initiative.

Mr. Dyar briefed on pending projects including a study of workplace violence coordinated with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a potential national conference on Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD), and distance learning network initiatives.

Mr. Dyar reported that the EMS Team is USFA's point of contact for EMS issues.

Mr. Troup reported on the new Technical Report available from the USFA dealing with the fire and emergency medical service (EMS) operations and the overall response to the Columbine High School at Littleton, Colorado, and that this report which is available on the USFA website at www.usfa.fema.gov.

VI. PRIVATE SECTOR AGENCY REPORTS:

American Ambulance Association (AAA): Mr. Krumpferman reported that the AAA will release its Documentation Guide in January. He mentioned that it will be available on CD-Rom and that there will be charge for it.

Johns Hopkins University: Dr. Levick reported on the ambulance crash test conducted at the end of July and that these studies identified certain hazardous design issues. She mentioned that vehicle crashes are the leading cause of

fatalities among EMS responders. She thanked the FICEMS committee and others who have provided support for this research effort.

Star Mountain: Ms. Nichols reported on several training initiatives they developed of NHTSA. She mentioned that Star Mountain has developed several turnkey distance education training programs and that VA is currently using one of their programs.

National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP): Dr. Bogucki reported that the NAEMSP will have its next meeting in Sanibel Island, Florida on January 17-20, 2001.

Dr. Bogucki discussed latest American Heart Association Advanced Cardiac Life Support guidelines and that the NAEMSP Medical Directors group is looking at these guidelines.

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM): Mr. Chambers reported that ASTM is heavily involved in the development of consensus standards. He reported that ASTM is forming a committee looking at spinal immobilization issues.

He also reported that the ASTM Ground Ambulance Design Standard (F 30.01.01) is finalized and that the ASTM Air Ambulance Standard (F 30.01.02) is reviewing Department of Defense testing protocols.

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC): Mr. Robison introduced Mr. Craig Sharman of the NVFC's national office.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF): Mr. Moore mentioned that the IAFF is involved with EMS reimbursement and performance measurement issues. He also reported that the IAFF has a new president, Mr. Harold Schaitberger.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

The discussion regarding Federal programs and policies regarding Public Access Defibrillation was deferred to the March 1 meeting.

Dr. French reported that the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act was signed into law by President Clinton. In this legislation there is discussion of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) that requires coordination with several Federal agencies that are FICEMS members. He mentioned that DHHS is the lead agency and that have been given \$215 million for this effort in WMD.

Dr. French discussed a consortium of AED use among Federal agencies. The FICEMS committee recommended that an ad hoc working group on this subject

meet on an informal basis. Dr. French will serve as the point of contact on this effort.

Mr. Chambers requested that U.S. Air Force General Klaus Shafer wants to brief FICEMS on the Air Force's Encompass logistics program. The chair asked the executive secretariat prepare an invitation to General Shafer for the March 1 FICEMS meeting.

Mr. Troup reported on a request for Information from the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) Seattle Office that is currently working on an assignment requested by Senators Feingold and Collins related to Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Data Collection. He distributed information on this project (Attachment #3) to attendees and requested that if the attendees have any information in support of this effort that they contact Ms. Katherine Iritani of the GAO.

Dr. French requested that information be provided regarding pending legislation relating to needlestick prevention. The executive secretariat will ask Mr. Chap Pierce of OSHA to provide this information at the March 1 FICEMS meeting.

Mr. Waddell asked that those who wanted to be deleted from the FICEMS listserv roster to let him know.

VIII. NEXT MEETING:

Date and Time: March 1, 2001, 10:30 a.m.

Location (Tentative): Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C)
8737 Colesville Road (Route #29)
Silver Spring, Maryland
Room to be determined.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Wood at 12:20 p.m.